

MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR LOCAL JUVENILE FACILITIES

INITIAL STATEMENT OF REASONS

Title 24, Part 1, Section 13-201 and Part 2, Section 460A

The Physical Plant Workgroup reviewed the *Minimum Standards for Local Juvenile Facilities – Title 24*. Substantive changes were recommended to twelve regulations and minor changes were recommended to two regulations.

Section 13-201 (a) – Definitions: This section is amended to add new definitions for “new generation design” and “security glazing”.

Current Title 24 Regulations do not define “new generation design”. The proposed definition will clarify the term often used in describing the type of housing unit design employed in new facility construction.

Current Title 24 Regulations do not define “security glazing”. The proposed definition will enable design professionals, facility administrators and regulatory entities to clearly define what security glazing is, how it is used, and where it is required in designing, constructing and operating local juvenile detention facilities.

SECTION 13-201 (c) INITIAL PLANNING FOR A LOCAL JUVENILE FACILITY

Section 13-201 (c) 2 – Comprehensive Needs Assessment Study/Targeted Needs Assessment: The current regulation addresses only one type of Needs Assessment Study. This section is amended to maintain the current full scale Needs Assessment Study while adding a reduced scope Targeted Needs Assessment Study for those projects that are add-bed, build-out, or other previously defined limited scope projects where a Needs Assessment Study has been submitted and accepted by the Board of Corrections.

Section 13-201 (c) 3 – Operational Program Statement: Editorial change to add the word operational to program statement. Current regulations do not contain the word “operational” when referring to “program statement”. This amendment should eliminate confusion between the terms “architectural program” and “program statement”.

Section 13-201 (c) 6 – Design Requirements: This section is amended to add that telephone cords shall be of minimum length to facilitate use. The proposed amendment would require that the length of telephone cords be shortened to prevent a potential suicide hazard while maintaining accessibility for the minor. This section is amended to require that all sleeping rooms are “wet” to eliminate the need for staff to escort minors to the restroom. This section is amended to clarify where “security glazing” is required in newly constructed or remodeled facilities. Current regulations do not define where security glazing is required when used in detention facility construction. The amended regulation addresses, if security glazing is considered, where security glazing must be used, and establishes the acceptable use of security glazing as part of the overall facility security system. An editorial change was made to 13-201 (c) 6.B (6) Heating and Cooling to address the correct code citation. An editorial change; to 13-201 (c) 6.B (9)

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Security, was made to clarify that the facility design provides security and supervision appropriate to the classification level of minors in custody.

SECTION 460A.1 DESIGN CRITERIA FOR REQUIRED SPACES

Section 460A.1.2 – Locked Holding Room: This section is amended to require that locked holding rooms be equipped with toilet, wash basin, and drinking fountains, unless a procedure is in effect to allow a minor access to these services. The current regulation only requires access to toilet, washbasin and drinking fountain in locked holding rooms. The amendment would require a toilet, washbasin and drinking fountain in locked holding rooms unless a procedure is in effect to give a minor access to these items. This section is also amended to require that locked holding rooms have an outward swinging or lateral sliding door. This amendment is based upon security and fire and life safety issues. When a door swings inward, the minor has the ability to block it, thus making it difficult for staff to enter. By having the door swing laterally or outward, staff has control of the door, and they can enter the room without having to overcome resistance from the minor.

Section 460A.1.5 – Living Unit: This section is amended to clarify that a living unit shall not be divided by any permanent or temporary barrier that hinders direct access, supervision or immediate intervention or other action if needed. The current regulation does not sufficiently address the issue of maintaining a unified living unit without physical barriers or subdivisions that may prevent direct access, supervision, immediate intervention or any other action within the living unit. This amendment clarifies that living units will be precluded from being “subdivided” by any means, permanent or temporary, because such subdivision may impede both normal and emergency staff response to minors in custody within the unit.

Section 460A.1.6 – Locked Sleeping Rooms: This section is amended to require that locked sleeping rooms shall be equipped with an individual or combination toilet, wash basin and drinking fountain. The current regulation allows a facility to have a procedure in place that provides a minor access to these items upon request. This amendment would allow the minor to use the toilet or drink water while they are in their room without having to ask staff permission, or to wait for staff to let them out of their rooms to access these items. This section is also amended to require that locked sleeping rooms have an outward swinging or lateral sliding door. This amendment is based upon security and fire and life safety issues. When a door swings inward, the minor has the ability to block it, thus making it difficult for staff to enter. By having the door swing laterally or outward, staff has control of the door, and they can enter the room without having to overcome resistance from the minor.

Section 460A.1.7 – Single Occupancy Sleeping Rooms: This section is amended to increase the minimum square footage of a single occupancy room from 63 square feet of floor area to 70 square feet of floor area. With the proposed amendment to Section 460A.1.6, locked sleeping rooms shall be equipped with an individual or combination toilet, wash basin and drinking fountain, the size of single occupancy sleeping rooms

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needs to be increased to accommodate these fixtures. This amendment would replicate the size of an adult single occupancy cell of 70 square feet with similar design features. This section is also amended to require that single occupancy sleeping room doors swing outward or slide laterally. This amendment is based upon security and fire and life safety issues. When a door swings inward, the minor has the ability to block it, thus making it difficult for staff to enter. By having the door swing laterally or outward, staff has control of the door, and they can enter the room without having to overcome resistance from the minor.

Section 460A.1.8 – Double Occupancy Sleeping Rooms: This section is amended to require that double occupancy sleeping room doors swing outward or slide laterally. This amendment is based upon security and fire and life safety issues. When a door swings inward, the minor has the ability to block it, thus making it difficult for staff to enter. By having the door swing laterally or outward, staff has control of the door, and they can enter the room without having to overcome resistance from the minor. An editorial change was also made to add the word “view” in front of the word “panel” to create consistent wording of the standard.

Section 460A.1.9 – Dormitories: The current regulation allows a maximum dormitory size of 15 minors under “detained” status while providing a maximum dormitory size of 30 minors under “court commitment” status. This section is amended to allow a maximum dormitory size of 30 minors regardless of status.

Section 460A.1.13 – Safety Room: This section is amended to provide access to toilet, washbasin, and drinking fountains outside of the safety room. This amendment would eliminate the use of a floor type toilet in the safety room. The current regulation does not address what type of light fixture may be used in a safety room. This section is amended to add that a safety room be equipped with a variable intensity, security-type lighting fixture with controls located outside the room, and wall or ceiling devices must be inaccessible to the minor occupying the safety room. The current regulation also does not address wall or ceiling mounted devices within the safety room. This section is amended to address that any wall or ceiling mounted device must be inaccessible to the minor, without prescribing the minimum or maximum mounted height.

Section 460A.2.10 – Security Glazing: This is a new regulation that requires security glazing to comply with the minimum requirements of specified tests as stated in the new regulation. The current regulations do not address testing requirements for security glazing. The adoption of this regulation would define accepted test standards for security glazing used in juvenile detention facilities. This regulation would utilize established testing standards familiar to the detention construction industry.